

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2005, claim 1 is amended and claims 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai et al., (Architecture of Compiler-Initiative Type Multiprocessor ASCA). The Examiner refers to section 5 (Multi-grain parallel processing technique), as well as Sections 3.1 and 3.2, of this article as providing support for the rejections.

To expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to include the features recited in claim 2, now cancelled. In addition, claims 4, 6, 8 and 10, which directly or indirectly depend on claim 2, are cancelled.

Differences between the presently claimed invention and Iwai et al. are as follows:

Iwai et al. discloses a multiple processor system including multi-stage interconnection networks having a multiple stage arrangement. In addition, Iwai et al. discloses a technical idea to previously and statically perform scheduling of packet transfer among processor elements.

The invention recited in amended claim 1 is characterized in that an array of multi-stage connection networks having a multiple stage arrangement include an upstream linking network for upward transfer of data packets from the lower stage to the upper stage, and a downstream linking network for downward transfer of data packets from the upper stage to the lower stage. Iwai et al. does not disclose such multi-stage connection networks that include an upstream linking network for upward transfer of data packets from the lower stage to the upper stage, and

a downstream linking network for downward transfer of data packets from the upper stage to the lower stage.

Thus, according to the presently claimed invention, because the flow of packets can be separated, the scheduling can be previously and easily performed. In addition, according to the present claimed invention, the packets can be inhibited from gathering in a particular network of the exchanger for connection between Clos networks and generating any hot spot, hence contributing to the improvement of the multi-processor system apparatus performance.

The factual determination of lack of novelty under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires the identical disclosure in a single reference of each element of a claimed invention such that the identically claimed invention is placed into possession of one having ordinary skill in the art. *Helifix Ltd. v. Blok-Lok, Ltd.*, 208 F.3d 1339, 200 U.S. App. LEXIS 6300, 54 USPQ2d 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Electro Medical Systems S.A. v. Cooper Life Sciences, Inc.*, 34 F.3d 1048, 32 USPQ2d 1017 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

As described above, the invention recited in amended independent claim 1 is different from the invention disclosed in Iwai et al., and has remarkable advantages, other than those of Iwai et al. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Iwai et al. Consequently, the allowance of amended independent claim 1, as well as of dependent claims 3, 5, 7 and 9, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

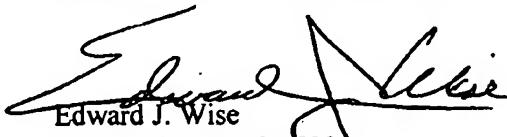
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues

that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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